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## COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT AND HOW IT AFFECTS US AS LEADERS

“Risk management is the process of identifying, assessing, and controlling risks arising from operational factors and making decisions that balance risk costs with mission benefits.” (T221 Ch. 1 Pg. 1-1) As a leader in today’s army we have many different risks at any given time to deal with. Whether it is dealing with soldiers or a mission we have to look at the bigger picture to fully understand what all the risks involved are. From Battalion Commanders all the way down to Fire Team Leaders the risk might be different but all play an important part in the deployment. Our main goal is to bring everyone we came with back home. There are too many risks during a deployment to plan for every single one but it’s our responsibility to our soldiers to do the best we can.

Some of the risks we have to plan for on a deployment can deal with both combat situations and the preparation of our equipment. Before we even go out on patrol our vehicles and equipment have to be prepared for whatever risks we might encounter while out in sector. Our equipment has to be serviceable or it won’t protect us when we need it to. Having the correct gear that works will greatly reduce the risk of injury. It’s our job to make sure that all of our soldiers have what they need and if they don’t, to do everything we can to get it for them. Their lives are our responsibility.

Our vehicles have to be prepared for the dangers of patrolling whether it’s from an IED, RPG, vehicle accident, or a roll over. It’s our job to make sure all the correct armor and equipment is on or in the vehicle and that its maintenance is up to date. That little bit of extra protection or extra inch of glass could be the difference in saving someone’s life. How the vehicle runs and the equipment inside works can make a huge difference as well. On deployments it’s not always easy to maintain equipment, parts, and vehicles because you can’t always get what you might need. It’s our job to do the best we can with what we have and to make it work the best way possible. Every time you take a shortcut on something we take the risk of possibly putting lives in danger.

As leaders we have to take that extra step to ensure that everything we can possibly do to ensure our soldier’s safety is done. Their lives are in our hands and we have a responsibility to ensure everything that can be done to keep them safe is taken care of. In today’s deployments there are too many risks to plan and account for each and every single one. At the same time, as leaders, we could have a million different things at any given time on our minds or to take care of. Most of the time we have to look at the bigger picture, but it’s the little things that add up to make that big picture. Smaller risks are often overlooked for the bigger ones but can be just as important. So we have to keep that in mind when managing risks whether it is for a patrol, a deployment, or in garrison. “My two basic responsibilities will always remain uppermost in my mind, the accomplishment of my mission and the welfare of my soldiers”.